

cases out of 34 were found in which the globules were below the healthy mean, in 6 of which they ranged from 120 to 125, and in 26 from 95 to 120; they also found for the first six months the fibrine in the 34 cases was uniformly below the natural quantity, varying from 1.9 to 2.9; while during the last three months it exceeded it, ranging from 2.9 to 4.8, and averaging nearly 4; this, therefore, gives the true reason for the buffy coat; and we here have 32 cases out of 34 in which anemia was proved to exist.

The treatment of this affection should, of course, consist of tonics, the best of which are the ferruginous preparations, a nutritious diet, fresh air, and moderate exercise; the nervous symptoms, when excessive, should be allayed by the antispasmodics and opiates; and when congestion occurs, it will generally be speedily relieved by cold applications to the part, counter-irritants and rest, with a little aperient medicine if the bowels should be constipated; and perhaps it may not be out of place to mention here that, when the brain is the seat of engorgement, the best mode of applying the cold to it will be by pouring water of a low temperature in a steady stream upon the head, care being taken to watch the patient, that she be not too much prostrated thereby. It would be easy to cite numerous instances in which the above treatment has relieved headache, vertigo, and even convulsions, in some of which after depletion had been fairly tried and failed; but I trust enough has been said to show the real character of the complaint, and with a few words upon the injuries that a false diagnosis may inflict upon the child, I shall bring this subject to a close.

It is an acknowledged fact that tubercles and serofula often originate in a depraved condition of the system, and as the vital organs of the fœtus at the time of their formation are undoubtedly in their most delicate condition, and very susceptible of change, may not the imperfect plasma, which is all the parent can furnish out of her impoverished blood, lay the foundation for these diseases, which only wait for some exciting cause to call them into action? And if this be the case, how highly important it is, both to the mother and her offspring, that the true nature of the affection be clearly understood, and the proper remedies at once applied.

---

ART. XVII.—*On Neuralgia of the Scalp.* By J. BROOKS, M.D., of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

THERE is a class of diseases that may be fairly ranked among the *opprobria medicorum*, if intense suffering on the part of the patient, with very little relief from our art can fairly entitle any disease to that "bad eminence." I allude to that anomalous form of disease called neuralgia of the scalp. It may show itself in pain so intense and persistent as to imbitter the whole life of the patient, or it may exist only in its frequent phase of dizziness.

The last term, however, is quite too mild to express the sad annoyance it causes the patient. The sensation of constantly falling is hard to endure, and in many cases it totally incapacitates the sufferer from pursuing his occupation, even if it does not expose him to the absolute risk of life. In the absence of any satisfactory treatment to be found in the books, I have been forced to look around for some remedy; and, so far as seven or eight cases can establish confidence in a means of cure, I have no hesitation of announcing one. Be this as it may, I now encounter these most vexatious cases with totally different feelings from those which formerly I approached them, as I have yet to find a case where the remedy has failed. In July last, I submitted to it in my own person, which I may be allowed to adduce as a proof of my sincerity if not of my intelligence. Being fully persuaded, therefore, of the value of the remedy, and anxious that others may derive the same benefit from it, I submit the following cases for the consideration of the profession. I give them only for what they are worth. I have no disposition to mistake or exaggerate, and if in other hands the practice proves as successful as it has in mine, I shall be abundantly grateful.

Not to weary your readers with the length of my exordium, I shall narrate, as concisely as possible, the first four cases in which I have tried it, wishing others may be equally fortunate :—

CASE I.—On July 1, 1846, I was called to visit a young lady who was labouring under slight pneumonia, which readily yielded to bloodletting. I found, however, that for two years she had suffered extremely from neuralgic pains of the posterior region of the head, extending to the vertex, abdominal muscles, and pelvic viscera. There was tenderness of the cervical, dorsal, and lumbar vertebrae. In defecation, she endured the most intense pain, which very naturally she referred to piles. The disease not yielding to the usual remedies, I divided the sphincter ani, with the effect of completely relieving so much of her suffering. What remained now was intense pain of the whole scalp. I ran through every general and local treatment that occurred to me, till it would be easier to tell what I did not rather than what I did. Nothing, however, was of the slightest avail but laudanum, which procured her temporary relief in five-drachm doses. Wearied out with the worthlessness of all my remedies I was strongly tempted to abandon the case to nature; but it occurred to me that dividing the branches of the occipitalis major might probably afford relief. In February, 1847, I made incisions on both sides, about two inches long and down to the bone. Immediately and entirely my patient's sufferings were relieved. The wounds were filled with lint till suppuration became established, and caustic potash was occasionally and cautiously applied for six weeks to keep it up. The issues were then suffered to heal. From this time I had no difficulty.

Three caustic issues were established over the course of the spine and kept open for four months. The patient gained flesh and strength till her health became perfectly re-established.

CASE II.—A puddler in an iron works of this city had suffered for years from pains in the back of his head, occasionally so severe as to incapacitate him from work. Every known remedy had been tried with only very partial relief.

Even when comparatively well, and at his work, he was obliged to wear a woollen cap, as the slightest draught of cold air brought back his old sufferings. In September, 1847, he consulted me, ready to submit to any treatment that promised relief. As in this case only one side was affected, I made an incision about two inches in length and down to the bone. The wound was treated with caustic from time to time for three weeks, and then suffered to close. The cure was complete.

CASE III.—A gentleman, of sedentary habits, had suffered from neuralgia of the head and back for fifteen years, which had so much impaired his general health that he became unable to attend to any business. In August, 1848, I laid open the scalp, down to the bone, two and a half inches in length. He himself applied caustic to the wound from time to time, so as to keep up suppuration for two months.

Three issues were established over the spine, which discharged for three months. He informed me, about six months since, that he enjoyed excellent health.

CASE IV.—A glassblower, thirty years of age, consulted me in August, 1848, on account of dizziness, which had troubled him for a year or more. He stated that it occasionally disabled him from attending to his work, as he was in danger of falling off the bench, on which glassblowers walk when at work. I frankly told him that I could not cure him without dividing the nerves of his head, but that other means would afford temporary relief. Forced, if possible, to go on with his work, he chose the latter; resolving at some future period, if he did not get better, to submit to the operation.

Concentrated aqua ammonia was applied to the back of his head and neck, and morphine given, which so relieved him that he was able to pursue his business through the season of blowing, which continues about ten months. He went to the country, remained two months, and returned in September, and commenced work. In a very short time, however, he was obliged to give it up, the dizziness becoming worse than ever. An incision was made over the posterior and upper portion of the right parietal bone, Oct. 10, 1849, which relieved the dizziness immediately. The wound was filled with lint, a bandage applied, and the next day he did a full day's work. He improved in flesh and continued well till May, 1850, when again he was seized with dizziness. On the 5th inst. the other side was operated on, the wound treated as before stated; and, up to this time, he has had no return of the disease.

PITTSBURG, May, 1851.

---

ART. XVIII.—*Treatment of Acute Rheumatism with Lemon-Juice.*

By ROBERT H. CUMMINS, M. D., of Wheeling, Virginia.

It is now about two years since Dr. Owen Reese, of Guy's Hospital, first experimented with lemon-juice in acute rheumatism. Since that time it has been extensively used by many of our English brethren, and the success that has attended its use has established it perhaps as the *best* remedy in that disease.

Our experience with lemon-juice is limited; but, under its influence, we believe the excited action of the heart and arteries subsides; the articular pains abate; the urine attains its healthy colour, quantity, and chemical pro-